

# The Acton Free Press.

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Four Home-Print Pages—Five Cents

## Former Acton Boy Tells of Landing Operation in Italy

W. Hector MacDonald with the American Forces in Assault on the Continent

The following interesting letter was received from Cpl. W. Hector MacDonald, son of Mrs. Alex MacDonald Church Street who is with American Army in Italy and has been passed for publication by the army censor. We know that it will be read with interest—a first hand account of the invasion from an Acton boy.

Somewhere in Italy  
Mr. Arlof Dilla, Publisher  
Acton, Ontario  
Canada.

Dear Arlof:  
When I last saw you in November you told me to drop you a few lines if anything of interest came along in my travels. It was my lot to be in the advance outfit of American troops that invaded the European continent for the first time in this war, the assault on Italy. Along with the British troops we were the first to land, in the Salerno Sector.

This letter is being sent through the chief base censor and if it passes censorship I must caution you, in the event that part of it will be published, no changes whatsoever may be made from that which has passed our military censorship. Regulations are rigid and rightly so.

Much has been written about D day and H hour, but it was my first experience with either. D day of course refers to the day of action and H hour is when the troops actually land. Minus is for the days before and plus for the days after.

Much of the actual times, etc. must be omitted for military reasons but these mental notes give you an idea of the "before hours" here is clipped.

We first have a dress rehearsal, a full invasion practice with all equipment somewhere in North Africa. The army term for this is "The Cowpuncher."

On D Day we board transports at an unnamed African port and after being "sealed in" maps are brought out and we are briefed in our mission. A period of time here is clipped.

On D-L we are now passing Sicily where in the growing darkness can be seen the towering mountains on the shoreline, a grim reminder of recent events. Earlier we are joined by a giant convoy.

H Hour is Thursday, September 9th 1943.  
H-10 hours we have a well-prepared dinner of roast beef. (The navy really eats.) At minus nine hours, while on duty in the troop office the flash comes to the navy of the surrender of Italy and fifteen minutes later the news is on the ship's radio from Algiers. Much jubilation and the tension seems gone. At minus 8 hours the American Commander speaks to all troops and warns of over optimism and that operations would proceed according to plan. (Later we learn he was very much right.) From 8 minus to 4 minus final preparations and adjustments are made. At 4 minus we had a hearty breakfast. After eating all troops with equipment go on deck as we pass through mined waters. At minus 3 hours we are detected by enemy aircraft who attack the left wing of our convoy with vigor. Anti-aircraft and tracer bullets make a wind but beautiful sight, but I fall asleep and miss most of the fireworks. No casualties in men or ships as we have an abundance of protection.

At H minus hours we start disembarking into assault boats, down rope ladders and to a rendezvous of all boats in our wave. The Navy is already shelling the coast—a fascinating sight.

The schedule is set that the first troops will step on shore at exactly 00. It's about that time now. Just enough left for the "Run-in."  
We hit the beach. My third contingent in less than six months. It is rather "hot" for the Jerries have a zero on the beach, but luckily most of the artillery is falling a trifle to our right. We push on.

In the most part the rest must be left unsaid for the present, but as has been written, we did have some vigorous action. Our lines bent, but never broke, and in a few days the situation was well in hand. Some of the articles you may have been reading were probably written by a famed New York newspaper reporter who splashed out just behind me, holding his typewriter high above his head. Speaking of the British, there were some of us who didn't say a little prayer for the fabulous Eighth Army, who were racing up the coast to meet us, to step on the gas.

Right now we are doing splendidly and I am feeling fine after a bit of a rest.

Warmest personal regards.  
W. H. MacDonald

## Weekly War Commentary

By FRANK LOWE  
(Canadian Press Staff Writer)

While cheering the feats of the Alexanders, Montgomery's, Mountbattens of this war, spare a salute for the quiet civilians of the British foreign office who appear to have won the Battle of Turkey.

It was a long, tedious fight, staged in the unimpressive atmosphere of conference rooms and against the intangibles but deadly enemies of intrigue and rumor. But the recent news that the quiet civilians of the British foreign office who appear to have won the Battle of Turkey.

It was primarily a victory for those little known men from the British foreign office, who, under the direction of glamorous but canny Anthony Eden, have made Britain's diplomatic corps as feared as a mechanized army. Camouflaged by the old tradition that Britain merely "muddles through" the machinations of the corps during the war has been a headache to the Germans since Dunkerque. At that time it kept the fight going by swinging to an apparently beaten country—Britain—the support of the neutral world.

Since that time it has followed, and in many cases, as with Turkey, preceded the armed forces along the road to victory.

Diplomatic Victory  
The war these diplomats waged to swing Turkey, traditionally an ally of Germany, over to the Allied camp started in the days when things looked darkest for Britain and her Allies. At first the victories won in conference rooms against Germany's crafty Franz Von Papen were few, but of late they have increased until now they appear to have swept the field.

For announcement by the hard-headed men of the Turkish cabinet that all short of total war—such as the United States extended Britain before the Japanese forced her into the conflict—was being given the Allies was an unmistakable sign of where Turkey stands.

Coming as it did just when Britain was suffering another setback in the Aegean, it was also a boost for United Nations morale and a slap in the face of Hitler. And that should come just then was proof positive that Britain's diplomats are top men in Europe's most powerful and strategic neutral country.

A feature of last week's fighting on other than the diplomatic fronts was the raid of nearly 1,000 R. A. F. and R. C. A. F. planes on Berlin and Ludwigshafen when a total of 2,500 long component bombs were hurled on the Nazi capital alone. Neutral reports said chaos reigned in Berlin as a result of the raid.

As the raids on Germany by both British and American planes continued to reach new heights, Maj-Gen. William E. Kepner, chief of the United States 8th Air Force's fighter command, declared that "now we have supporting fighters proportionately and concentrate against heavy industry for Germany to crumble."

He said the Allies had defeated the strategy of the German high command in the air.

Canadian airmen during the week also took part in the war's fifth raid on Leverkusen, a chemical centre six miles north of Cologne where poison gas components are manufactured. Ludwigshafen is the home of the world's largest chemical centre.

Russian Setback  
Meanwhile, the Russians suffered their most serious setback of the 1943 campaign when they had to abandon Zhitomir, important Leningrad-Odesa Railway junction which they had taken from the Germans only a few days previously. The retreat was ordered apparently when it was found impossible to reinforce troops holding the place.

However, the Red Army off the reverse with a surprise drive across the Dnieper River to the gates of Cherkask, and the capture of Ovruch, 25 miles north of Korosten. Cherkask is midway between Kiev and Dnepropetrovsk.

## Financial Statement Shows Acton in Splendid Condition

Report of Work of Public Health Nurse Submitted — Snowplow Equipment Meets with Approval — Other Items at Final Meeting of Council before the Municipal Nominations

Councillors W. J. O. Oakes, F. Davison, C. Kirkness and A. Mason were present last night when Acton Council met in regular session and Reeve J. M. McDonald presided.

Miss Walker, Public Health Nurse, submitted the monthly report of her work in Acton. It gave a report of work in the school and visits to the homes for the month of September and reported progress being made.

Accounts were passed for payment as follows:

Acton Branch Legion, wreath	\$ 8.00
Township of Esqueping, taxes	12.45
W. Fryer, wood	12.00
W. Coles, Division Court Clerk	8.64
MacDonald's Bakery, welfare	8.64
Across Frazz Pass, printing and advertising	187.70
Chas. Thatcher, snow fence	34.90
E. E. Harrop, gas for truck and mixer	2.36
Guelph Sand and Gravel, Ltd, gravel	13.50
James Robertson, labor	2.00
A. Clifford, labor	2.00
Percy Woods, labor	2.00
K. Hepburn, labor	2.40
E. Sunter, labor	2.40
Chas. Gardner, labor	2.40
W. McCullough, labor	2.40
F. L. Wright, insurance premium	608.67
Provincial Treasurer, sinking fund	52.72
Acton Public Utilities Commission, street lighting	138.19
E. E. Harrop, selecting jurors	1.00
C. F. Leatherland, selecting jurors	1.00
J. M. McDonald, selecting jurors	1.00
Carroll's Co., supplies for Chief of Police	2.25
F. L. Wright, Secretary expenses re farm labor	25.00
J. E. Gamble, expenses Firemen's School	30.00

**\$139.17**  
An account of an indulgent from the Toronto General Hospital was referred for investigation and not accepted.

Miss Walker brought to the attention of Council the need of a family for bedding and some clothing. This however, could not be handled under the welfare plan and Chief Harrop was to investigate.

Chief Harrop reported that the snowplow equipment for the truck had been received and after examination was found quite satisfactory.

In connection with the new truck it was felt that it would be advisable to secure an additional horse. The Clerk was instructed to advertise for a man capable of driving and for general municipal labor.

A letter was read from the Credit Men's Association, regarding W. Starr and Emma Goodman a hearing in bankruptcy. The letter was filed.

A letter from the Township of Nassagaweya, informed Council it was the intention to secure a suitable honor roll for residents of the township.

The Utilities Commission wrote regarding adjustment of water rates on a consumer, where water had been used in constructing sidewalks. The Council agreed to pay the difference in the consumer's account for the amount used as shown by previous accounts.

It was decided to order a supply of gasoline required at the fire pumping station.

The financial report to November 15th was given study by the Council and showed a record for the term of sound financing for the Municipality. The finances of Acton are in the best condition of any time in the past twenty years.

## Acton Plant Given As Example Of Industrial Expansion

Yesterday morning the Globe and Mail carried an interesting story, along with photographs of the plant established in Acton. It gave the story of the plant since establishment here in 1940 and the events which led up to Lord Barnby, Mr. Leslie Biggin and Mr. K. Markon joining hands to make this English process become part of a Canadian production record.

It is one of the war's new jobs in Canada which is likely to expand more after the war, as the plant is only now producing a third of the requirements of Canada. We hope to be able to reproduce the article in an early issue of The Frazz Pass, as it gives some added items which have not appeared previously in our articles.

## NASSAGAWEYA BARN COMPLETELY BURNED CATTLE ESCAPE

Fire of an unknown origin completely destroyed the barn of Harvey Blacklock, of Nassagaweya Township. This farm is located on the Guelph Road about two miles north of Campbellville. More than 100 bushels of wheat and all the feed and hay were destroyed. Fortunately the barn door was open and the cattle escaped.

First intimation the family had of the fire was the roar of an army machine doing night flying and circling the fire to awaken the owners of the property. The fire has made it necessary for Mr. Blacklock to dispose of his stock of cattle by auction, as he has no feed or shelter for them.

## School Pupils Aim to Have Halton Plane

Last year the pupils of Kitchener Public Schools purchased enough War Saving Stamps to purchase an aeroplane and have it named after them. This year it is the aim of the schools of Halton county to have an aeroplane (Anson, Harvard, Norseman, Crane, or Oxford) named for our county, i. e. The County of Halton.

This objective can be reached if we average \$5 per pupil during the year. Acton Public School with an enrolment of 301 should be purchasing \$1505.50 worth per month if we are to do our share. During September the sales amounted to \$44.98 and during October \$121.08.

## BIBLE QUIZ AND MUSICAL PROGRAM AT R.Y.P.U. MEETING

The regular meeting of the R.Y.P.U. was held in the church on Tuesday evening. A sing-song led by Mr. E. W. Anderson, with Mrs. Anderson at the piano, was followed by a brief business discussion.

Mrs. G. Wagner read the Scripture Lesson and Mr. and Mrs. Anderson gave a piano and cornet duet. Miss Jean Matheson conducted a Quiz, based on the books of the Bible. Mr. Len Atkinson gave the topic, "The Twenty-third Psalm." He presented several lesser known points regarding the Psalm for consideration. These proved both interesting and helpful. A hymn and prayer led by Mrs. R. Lincoln brought the program to a close.

## Nassagaweya Board Entertained Teachers and Officials

Last Tuesday evening the Nassagaweya School Board members and their wives entertained the teachers of the Area, the Reeve of Nassagaweya, Mr. Alex. Near and Mrs. Near. Games, stunts, contests and such were enjoyed by everyone with the winners as follows: Advertisement trade names, Mrs. Ross Carbet and Mrs. Geo. Wallace; Musical contest, Mrs. and Mrs. Snyder; Euchre, ladies, Mrs. Alex. Near, Mrs. Mrs. Jos. Frank; men, Mr. Ross Carbet and Mr. Alex. Near; Apple peeling contest for men, Dr. B. D. Young; Lucky prize winners, Miss M. Milroy, Mrs. Geo. Wallace, Mr. Snyder.

## The North Halton Ministerial Assoc. Met in Acton

The North Halton Ministerial Association met in the Acton United Church on Monday. In the absence of Rev. C. C. Cochran the Rev. E. A. Brooks occupied the chair. The speaker was the Rev. Dr. W. J. Gallagher, Secretary of the Christian Social Council of Canada.

Outlining the many steps since 1910 which led to the present consciousness of a World Church, he said that denominational differences were not the real dividing lines to-day, but rather that the real dividing lines cut across all the churches and were between nations and groups in each one.

Speaking on post-war planning, Dr. Gallagher declared that a Christian social consciousness must make itself felt and that the great issues cannot be left to chance. The modern period of the secularization of life has also been the greatest period of advance and expansion in the history of Christendom. Asked a question about the campaign against the C. C. F. Party, the speaker said that though he was not a member of it, he was quite sure that Mr. Winch and others had not made the statements accredited to them, adding that he considered it a very fortunate thing to have the C. C. F. in opposition to-day in this province.

The great United Effort of Evangelism now under way in all the non-Roman Catholic Churches was outlined. Each Church in its own way was urged to participate, setting forth the essential doctrines of the Christian Faith, emphasizing the nature of the Faith during the Week of Prayer when a great united service of witness is urged in every community, and setting forth the practical basis of the Faith in everyday life during the pre Lent period.

## NOVEMBER MEETING DUBLIN INSTITUTE AT MRS. D. MOFFAT'S

The Dublin Women's Institute held their November meeting at the home of Mrs. D. Moffat. Roll call was answered by different uses of the potato. Social Welfare was taken by Mrs. A. Near. The concert and draw held by members of the Institute in School Section No. 8, Nassagaweya, was quite a success.

Mrs. Near spoke on the National Health War Services. She requested the members to read any material that is written by Dr. Marsh, Dr. Haggerty and Dr. Whitteer. Miss Somerville gave the scrap book and she took Knatchbull as her topic. An exhibit of meathless supper dishes was well responded to and was very appetizing.

Mrs. vanGoozen, the delegate to the convention gave half of her report. Mrs. Atkins tendered a vote of thanks to those who took part in the program and also to the hostess for the use of her home.

The meeting closed with the singing of the National Anthem. Lunch was served and a social time spent.

## Parcels Reach the Acton Boys in the Front Line in Italy

Following is a note from Cpl. Jim McGeachie, received by The Frazz Pass who is with the Canadians in Italy. It came by airgraph.

Dear Arlof:  
Just a note to let yourself and the good people of Acton and vicinity know that I am getting along fine, here in Italy. We have had, quite a time of it and have had some good times as well as lots not so good. We had several engagements with "Jerry" and he is quite a fighter, he thinks we are pretty good too. I still receive elgs from Acton and had a parcel about a week ago. It really was appreciated as we were up in the front lines and good eats were scarce. I am always thinking of my Acton friends and am eagerly awaiting the day when I can see them again. We are having a few days rest here and the "Eytes" are really looking after us in regards to food, especially eggs and bread.

Well Arlof so long for now. Regards to All.

Jim McGeachie

## ACTON BOYS ENLISTED This Week's Register

Roy Lambert, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Lambert, has joined the R.C.A. F. and reports for duty next week. Bev. Arnold has joined the Royal Canadian Navy. Ken. Hazzard has joined the Royal Canadian Navy.

## THIS WEEK

By JOHN C. SCOTT  
(Canadian Press Staff Writer)

TORONTO (CP)—Agriculture Minister Kennedy thinks Ontario will have a population of approximately 8,000,000—a little more than double the present 3,700,000 in the next 10 or 15 years.

In an address at the annual banquet of the Huron County Federation of Agriculture, Col. Kennedy predicted a steady growth in the number of people in the province and said such an increase will provide another period of opportunity for Ontario farmers "because there is no market as good as our own home market close to our doors."

Ontario's agricultural economy must be planned in such a way as that the farmers would expand with any population growth, and thus would be able to take advantage of any available larger market.

"I am hopeful that the agricultural commission of inquiry which is now making an exhaustive study of all phases of agriculture for your benefit will give consideration to ways and means of planning our agriculture production so that we will be in a position to meet all the needs of the future," Col. Kennedy said.

Dr. William Henry Riddell, one of the foremost figures in Ontario harness racing circles, died at his Orangeville home last week.

The 83-year-old "Doc" had bred, developed and raced standard-bred horses for 60 years, the outstanding ones being Beaver Dale, Peter Dale, Lauderdale, The Bison and Rota R. With "Doc" doing the driving, Rota R. finished to a \$3,000,000 victory in the Canadian National Exhibition Futurity some years ago.

Dr. Riddell drove his last race only six years ago—at the age of 77.

Ontario's C. C. F. leader, E. B. Joliffe, thinks the future of Canada's professional and so-called middle class is bound up with that of the farmers and workers.

At a dinner meeting of the University Women's Club of Hamilton, Mr. Joliffe said all should unite in tackling the problems facing the nation because if Canada again sinks into the slough of depression, many business and professional men will go into bankruptcy.

Problems to be solved in post-war years included the production of useful goods and services on a scale comparable to present war-time production. Canada has more than tripled its production between 1932 and 1942.

"If we can produce at that level for war purposes, why can't it be done for peace purposes," he said.

Labor Minister Daley says he is personally satisfied that Ontario's Labor Court set up by an act of the legislature at the last session—does not render the service it was set up to do.

In a letter to the Hamilton District Trades and Labor Council, Mr. Daley said his department is giving serious consideration to that body's resolution respecting the abolition of the court. He added, however, he was not criticizing the efficiency of the court's personnel but rather its design.

## Final Shipment of Water Meters Has Been Received

Liability Insurance taken Through The Ontario Commission

The regular meeting of the Acton Public Utilities Commission was held on Thursday evening. Commissioner J. H. MacArthur was present with Chairman C. M. Hansen, presiding.

A bill was presented from E. P. Bowman for \$18.00 for the survey for the new fence that was erected at the pump house. It was decided to divide in proportion to the extent of the fence with the property owners adjacent to the property.

A copy of a letter that the Corporation clerk had received from R. E. Robson, requested that the lights be turned on at the Arena was read. The request had been complied with.

Superintendent Chas. Wilson reported that the final lot of water meters had arrived.

A letter was read from the H.E. P.C. of Ontario stating that the Public Liability Insurance could be secured from the Ontario Commission.

The rate quoted was considerably less than could be secured from other insurance companies and the policy was ordered renewed.

The list of arrears was checked and orders given for those in arrears to have their services discontinued until the accounts had been paid.

Some consumers had asked what consideration would be given to their water accounts when the meters were read as the village officials had attached a hose to their taps in order to secure water for laying new sidewalks in various parts of the town, instead of using the hydrant attachments.

The secretary, Miss B. H. Speight, was instructed to write the Council to find out what adjustment should be made as the Commission has no way of estimating how much water had been used.

The secretary was instructed to pay the following accounts:

Hydro Dept.	
Bell Telephone Co, services	\$ 5.76
C.N.R. and Transports, express	2.62
Mrs. Smith, cleaning office	1.25
Across Frazz Pass, printing and advertising	29.84
H.E.P.C. of Ontario, power	3,581.28
Canadian Chromalox Co. Ltd, supplies	2.28
Sutherland-Schultz Electric Co. Ltd, motors	19.50
Canadian General Electric Ltd, fuse pullers	3.00
MacDonald Electric Ltd, supplies	2.77
Dept. of National Revenue, sales tax	94.55
	<b>\$3,742.30</b>

Waterwork Dept.  
Canadian Brass Company, supplies 26.04 || E. P. Bowman, survey of Pump House Lot | 18.00 |
Neptune Meters Ltd, meters	517.10
Hydro Dept., power at spring	46.01
Hydro Dept. October operations	191.76
	**\$798.91**

## Coming Events

Announcements of Meetings, Concerts or Other Events, under this heading are charged, in cents per line, with a minimum charge for any announcement of 5c.

Navy League Dance, November 27 in Acton Town Hall.  
Firemen's Annual Dance, December 3rd. Fisher's Orchestra, lucky door prize. 18-4  
New Year's Eve Dance, Acton Town Hall, December 31st. Merry-maker's Orchestra.  
Eden Mills Presbyterian Ladies' Aid Concert and Auction Sale, Monday, November 29th, 8.15 p.m. 25 cents.  
The Woman's Association of the United Church are having a baking sale and afternoon tea in the School Room on Saturday, Nov. 27.  
Variety entertainment and social in United Church School Room Tuesday, Nov. 30th. Proceeds for China Mission Field.

Guelph Old Time Fiddlers Amateur Night and Dance, City Hall auditorium Guelph, Thursday, Dec. 8. Assembly with talent making entries must be in by Dec. 4. Good prizes. Send entries to Secretary, William Douglas, 32 Carden St., Guelph.